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7 May 1960

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Communist China - Guinea: Communist China, intent on displaying its often-mentioned support for new African republics, is giving Guinea 10,000 tons of rice this year, a quarter of which has been delivered. Last year, Peiping gave 5,000 tons of rice--a staple item in the Guinea diet. The new gift will help relieve Guinea's critical food shortage and increase Peiping's standing with President Touré's regime, which has faced mounting popular unrest.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Iran:

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The execution in Tabriz on 4 May of five Communists, arrested last July, was probably intended in part as a warning that the government is ready to take stern measures.

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III. THE WEST

Finland: The Agrarian minority government, formed in January 1959 after the 1958 crisis in Soviet-Finnish relations, is in an increasingly precarious position as a result of the apparent determination of the Social Democrats to bring about its resignation. Believing that a cabinet crisis would lead to a political impasse and force the President to call for

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new elections, which they want, the Social Democrats recently threatened to collaborate with the Communists in a no-confidence motion. The government escaped a censure vote only by yielding to the parliamentary majority on the question. With the Social Democrats seeking to force elections, the Agrarians will increasingly need the votes which the Communists have been giving them to stay in power.

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Cyprus: [The release on 6 May of the editor of an anti-Makarios newspaper on Cyprus, 11 days after his abduction, may lessen tensions recently developed within the Greek Cypriot community.]

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Iran taking precautions against possible Student Riot

[Redacted]

[There are unconfirmed rumors that many politically active students and teachers in Tehran have been arrested. Communist leaflets exhorting students to riot were reportedly distributed at Tehran University on 2 May. Overt Communist demonstrations have not taken place at the university for several years.]

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[Iranian officials apparently do not anticipate serious unrest in the near future. The Shah left for a month in Europe on 4 May,]

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[The intelligence chief of the Supreme Staff, Lieutenant General Ali Kia, is also out of the country. The execution in Tabriz on 4 May of five Communists arrested last July on charges of conspiracy is probably intended in part as a warning that the government is ready to take stern measures.]

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Political Situation in Finland

Finland's Agrarian government, which commands only 47 out of the 200 seats in parliament, is in an increasingly precarious position, and the political situation seems to be evolving to the potential advantage of the Communist-front Finnish People's Democratic League (SKDL)--the Diet's largest party with 50 seats. The government came dangerously close to falling when the Social Democrats, who have been increasingly irritated at the Agrarians, decided to support a no-confidence motion introduced by the SKDL on a routine parliamentary measure. Confronted by this unusual cooperation between the mutually hostile parties of the left, the Agrarians decided to avoid a showdown and yielded on the legislation in question.

The present minority Agrarian government resulted from the long cabinet crisis of late 1958 when the USSR enforced its strong objections to the present leadership of the Social Democratic party by refusing to negotiate the annual trade agreement until the Social Democratic - led coalition had resigned. The Agrarians in January 1959 formed a minority cabinet which was able to break the impasse with Moscow and yet excluded the SKDL. The Agrarians have used Soviet objections to the incumbent Social Democratic leaders as a pretext for maintaining a monopoly of the government, stating it is impossible to cooperate with the Social Democrats as long as their party leadership remains unchanged.

The Social Democrats have recently adopted a policy of harassing the minority government with an eye to forcing new elections. Elections are unlikely, however, as long as President Kekkonen remains determined to maintain the present cabinet or, if it falls, to form a "presidential" cabinet to rule until the regularly scheduled parliamentary elections in 1962.

The present drift is increasingly demoralizing the anti-Communist forces, with the Social Democrats determined to force new elections. The Agrarian regime can remain in power only so long as the SKDL wants it to. The Socialists, already split between moderate and leftist wings, are increasingly tempted to accept Communist support in order to harass the Agrarians.

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Cyprus

[The release on 6 May of the editor of an anti-Makarios newspaper on Cyprus, 11 days after his abduction, may lessen tensions recently developed within the Greek Cypriot community. The abduction is widely regarded as the work of some of the more fanatical supporters of Archbishop Makarios. The already strained relations between Makarios and former EOKA leader George Grivas, in Athens, were virtually severed following the editor's disappearance, when Grivas openly denounced the kidnaping and the archbishop's political leadership of the Cypriots.]

[The prolonged delay in obtaining independence has caused widespread doubts among the population as to the competency of the interim government and the feasibility of implementing the original Cyprus settlement of February 1959. Makarios' position among the Greek Cypriot population has deteriorated recently, and reports indicate that his interim cabinet ministers are becoming discouraged.]

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